

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/088,947

Examiner

Lars A Olson

Applicant(s)

WOBBEN, ALOYS

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON-THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received from the applicant on June 28, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5 and 7-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 September 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons for Allowance

1. An amendment was received from the applicant on June 28, 2004.
2. Claims 4 and 6 have been canceled.
3. Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-23 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The landing stage for an offshore wind power installation as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a landing stage that is comprised of a mooring location for ships, a landing area for helicopters, and a common route link from said mooring location and said landing area to said installation, where said mooring location and said landing area are on a common platform, and said landing stage is rotatable about said installation about a vertical axis, or said landing stage is positioned relative to a prevailing wind direction of said installation.
5. The prior art as disclosed by King et al. (US 4,721,412) shows the use of an offshore safety escape platform for an offshore installation, where said platform is comprised of a mooring location for ships, a landing area for helicopters, and a common route link from said mooring location and said landing area to said offshore installation, said mooring location and said landing area being on a common platform. Hendriks (BE 876,855 A) discloses an offshore installation in the form of a wind power generating facility with a foundation that is arranged on a seabed. Ryan (US 4,003,473) discloses an offshore installation with a common route link and an escape platform that should be positioned on the lee side of said installation relative to a prevailing sea current

direction. And newly cited reference by Stair (US 4,180,362) describes the previous use of articulated landing ramps between a platform and a marine vessel, where said ramps are provided on every side of said platform so that transfer operations can be conducted between said platform and said marine vessel on a lee side of said platform in order to reduce the severity of sea and wave action on transfer operations. However, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a landing stage for an offshore wind power installation that is comprised of a mooring location for ships, a landing area for helicopters, and a common route link from said mooring location and said landing area to said installation, where said mooring location and said landing area are on a common platform, and said landing stage is rotatable about said installation about a vertical axis, or said landing stage is positioned relative to a prevailing wind direction of said installation.

Conclusion

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (703) 308-9807.

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July 26, 2004

LARS A. OLSON
PATENT EXAMINER

Lars Olson
7/26/04